point out and distinctly claim the invention; to place the claims in condition for allowance. New claim 56 has been added. The subject matter of the new and amended claims is fully supported in the specification. No new matter has been added.

A marked up version of the claims showing the amendments is attached hereto as Appendix A. Matter that has been deleted is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining. A copy of the claims as pending after entry of the foregoing amendments is attached as Appendix B. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and remarks made herein into the file history of the present application.

THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following Groups:

Group I: Claims 1-25, drawn to a method of detecting an antigen of interest in a sample with a multispecific molecule, classified in class 436, subclass 518;

Group II: Claims 26-40, drawn to a method of imaging an antigen bearing structure in a patient via patient administration of a multispecific molecule, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1; and

Group III: Claims 41-50, drawn to a kit for detecting an antigen of interest, classified in class 422, subclass 61.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I-III are distinct.

Applicants elect, without traverse, the invention of Group I, claims 1-25, to prosecute in the present application without prejudice to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected Group in subsequent applications.

It is believed that no fee is necessary for filing this response. In the event that a fee is required, please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing remarks be entered and made of record in the file history of the application. An early allowance of the application is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 2, 2002

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APPENDIX A
MARKED VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 09/727,421
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 9449-016-999

1. A method of detecting an antigen of interest in a sample comprising:

contacting the sample with a multispecific molecule, said multispecific molecule being capable of simultaneously binding the antigen of interest and a labeled detection probe, [and being other than two monoclonal antibodies that are chemically cross linked,] and allowing an antigen-multispecific molecule complex to form;

contacting the sample with a labeled detection probe, wherein said detection probe comprises at least two molecules [seven moles] of a detectable label, for sufficient time to form an antigen-multispecific molecule-probe complex; and

detecting the labels imparted by the labeled detection probe to the antigen-molecule-probe complex.

3. The method of claim 2 [3], wherein said tumor antigen is associated with breast, prostate, brain, liver, kidney, colon, pancreatic, stomach, or lung cancer.

4. The method of claim 2 [3], wherein said viral antigens are associated with hepatitis type A, hepatitis type B, hepatitis type C, influenza, varicella, adenovirus, herpes simplex type I (HSV-I), herpes simplex type II (HSV-II), rinderpest, rhinovirus, echovirus, rotavirus, respiratory syncytial virus, papilloma virus, papova virus, cytomegalovirus, echinovirus, arbovirus, hantavirus, coxsachie virus, mumps virus, measles virus, rubella virus, polio virus, human immunodeficiency virus type I (HIV-I), and human immunodeficiency virus type II (HIV-II), picornaviridae, enteroviruses, caliciviridae, Norwalk viruses, Dengue virus, alphaviruses, flaviviruses, coronaviruses, rabies virus, Marburg viruses, ebola viruses, parainfluenza virus, orthomyxoviruses, bunyaviruses, arenaviruses, reoviruses, rotaviruses, orbiviruses, human T cell leukemia virus type I, human T cell leukemia virus type II, simian immunodeficiency virus, lentiviruses, polyomaviruses, parvoviruses, Epstein-Barr virus, human herpes virus-6, cercopithecine herpes virus 1 (B virus), and poxviruses.

5. The method of claim 2 [3], wherein said hormone is thyroid stimulating hormone (TSR) or human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG).

6. The method of claim 2 [3], wherein said plasma protein is a fibrin degradation product (FDP), a C-reactive protein (CRP), a carcinoembryonic protein, α-fetoprotein (AFP), or a carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA).

7. The method of claim 2 [3], wherein said hapten is angiotensin I, vasopressin, somatostatin, atrial natriuretic hormone, endoserine, luteinizing hormone releasing hormone (LH-RH), kassinin or other peptides.

8. The method of claim 2 [3], wherein said steroid is progesterone, testosterone, cortisol or another steroid.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said sample from a human patient is a tissue, blood, saliva, urine, or plasma sample.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the method can detect about 2×10^{-16} [mole] moles of the antigen [is] present in the sample.

14. The method of claim 1 [12], wherein the method can detect about 2×10^{-18} [mole] moles of the antigen [is] present in the sample.

15. The method of claim 1 [12], wherein the method can detect about 2×10^{-21} [mole] moles of the antigen [is] present in the sample.

23. The method of claim 1 [22], wherein said detection probe is labeled with at least 9 molecules of a detectable label [labels].

24. The method of claim 1 [22], wherein said detection probe is labeled with at least 12 molecules [moles] of a detectable label.

25. The method of claim 1 [22], wherein said detection probe is labeled with at least 18 molecules [moles] of a detectable label.